

THE GAZETTE.

SATURDAY MORNING, JANUARY 14, 1860.

A NATIONAL PERIL.

A letter from Mr. Mechi, the well known English agriculturist, to the London Times, on the importance of saving the sewerage of towns for agricultural purposes, has called forth from Baron Liebig a letter, printed in the New York Times, in which he adds, to the arguments of Mr. Mechi some of his own, which are startling in themselves, and of very general application.

Placing the matter on purely scientific grounds, the distinguished chemist lays down the incontrovertible proposition, which every farmer knows by experience to be true of his own farm, that if crops are taken from land for a series of years without restoring to the soil the elements of which it is thus deprived, the land will become impoverished and its yield will begin to diminish.—This proposition Liebig proceeds to apply, both to England herself and to the countries upon which she depends for agricultural supplies. Of all the countries in the soil and carried to the cities in the shape of corn or meat, little or nothing is returned to the fields, the process of exhaustion is necessary, and is counteracted only by the importation of substances containing the requisite elements for the production of food—like bones and guano. The moment, therefore, this supply falls off, England must either see a constantly-diminishing return from her soil, arising from no economical law, but from pure exhaustion, or she must in some way begin to economize the waste of agricultural wealth, now suffered by the want of sewerage from the drains from which a large part of what is drawn from the soil is swept into the sea. Germany, from which England has in great part obtained her supply of bones, is beginning to perceive the value of this material for her own use, and this supply must be regarded as at an end. The supply of guano, it is estimated, will be exhausted in twenty-five years.—Liebig allows fifty years, and then England will be forced to the point to which Mechi and Liebig wish to bring her, in anticipation of saving her sewerage.

The application of this principle to the countries from which England draws her agricultural supplies, only incidentally occurs in Liebig's purpose, but is equally important. It is obvious that their supply of corn and meat must fall as rapidly as that of England, possibly more rapidly, since they too may not waste but export, and thus the time may be foreseen when their population will press closely upon production, and when England must look for a diminution of her supplies from abroad, as well as of her own product. Germany already feels the effect of constant exportation, for she is now forced to import manures in order to keep her crops up to the former mark; and what is true of Germany is true elsewhere; "history teaches," says Liebig, "that not one of all those countries which have produced corn for other lands have remained corn markets, and England has contributed her full share towards rendering unproductive the best lands of the United States, which have supplied her with corn, precisely as old Rome robbed Sardinia, Sicily, and the rich lands of the African coast, of their fertility." We cannot but agree to the acknowledgment of the permanent loss of the best grain lands of the world, and yet what is the waste of cultivation, and constant cropping without return? What else were out the wheat lands of New York, of the West and of Virginia.

This at once suggests the necessary extension of the principle affirmed by Liebig to other crops besides food crops,—to tobacco, hemp, cotton and wool, to everything which is cultivated and exported without due exhaustion to the soil. Our fields may seem exhaustless both in extent and fertility, but says Liebig, and with the approval of common sense, a well which recent pumping, however deep it may be, and there are many sections of the United States which have already bitterly tested the application of this familiar truth.

The United States as well as Great Britain may lay to heart the warning of the great agricultural chemist, given in the following words:—"I know that the prophets of future evil have at all times been derided by their own generation, but if history and natural law can furnish any ground whatever for a just conclusion, then there is none which stands upon a firmer basis than this: That if the British people do not take the pains to secure the natural conditions of the permanent fertility of their land, if they allow their fields as hitherto to be squandered, their fields will at no distant day cease to yield their returns of corn and meat.—Every man may picture to himself the state of things which will then gradually arise; but it does not belong to the province of natural science to decide the question whether the might and strength and independence of the nation can be maintained when this state of things shall have arisen.

To the Citizens of Alexandria.—I respectfully announce myself as a candidate for Collector of Taxes for the Southern District, embracing the First and Fourth Wards, pledging my best efforts to give satisfaction, and to secure the revenue.

JOHN A. FIELD begs leave to remind his friends, that he is a candidate for the office of Sheriff of Alexandria City and County, at the next election, and respectfully solicits their votes. He refers to his past conduct as a guarantee for the future.

To the Voters of the City and County of Alexandria.—I beg leave to announce myself as a candidate for the office of Sheriff, at the next election, and most respectfully solicit your votes.

H. L. MONROE.

NOTICE.—All accounts on our books have been made up to January 1st, and will be distributed as fast as we can get them out. We have to ask of our friends more than their usual degree of promptness.

ASHBY & WOOD.

NOTICE.—All accounts on our books have been made up to January 1st. We beg to say to our friends, we require, and hope they respond to this call promptly.

WASHINGTON & CO.

NOTICE.—Our bills are now ready for delivery, and will be issued in a few days. Our friends will oblige us by restoring promptly.

GEO. K. WITMER & BROS.

NEGROES WANTED.—We wish to purchase any number of NEGROES, of both sexes, for cash. All letters addressed to us, at this place, will receive prompt attention. Having bought the establishment, we wish to sell, with a bright, West end Duke street, and having refused to make it one of the most healthy and comfortable depot for NEGROES, we will receive them on board on the usual terms.

PRICE, BIRCH & CO.

NEGROES WANTED.—We wish to purchase any number of NEGROES, of both sexes, for cash. All letters addressed to us, at this place, will receive prompt attention. Having bought the establishment, we wish to sell, with a bright, West end Duke street, and having refused to make it one of the most healthy and comfortable depot for NEGROES, we will receive them on board on the usual terms.

PRICE, BIRCH & CO.

AUCTION SALES.

BY T. M. MCCORMICK—AUCTIONEER.
COMMISSIONER'S SALE OF A VALUABLE TRACT OF LAND, AND FISHERY, IN PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VA.—By virtue of a decree of the Circuit Court of Prince William County, in the case of Wm. Cleary, vs. Wm. Woodward, and others, defendants, rendered on the 13th of October, 1859, the undersigned as Commissioner under said decree, will, ON THE ELEVENTH DAY OF FEBRUARY, A. D. 1860, at 12 o'clock, M., proceed to sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, in front of the Mayor's office, in the city of Alexandria, Va., a valuable TRACT OF LAND AND FISHERY, situated in the county and state aforesaid, on the Potomac river, called and known as COCKPIT POINT, containing by estimation about FIVE HUNDRED and TWENTY-FIVE ACRES.

Terms of Sale.—One tenth of the purchase money cash; the residue to be paid in six, twelve, and eighteen months, with interest from the day of sale, the purchaser giving bond, with good personal security, for the deferred payments, and the title to remain until the whole purchase money shall be paid, the same being liable to be resold by the Commissioners in case the terms of sale are not complied with by the purchaser.

JOHN P. PHILLIPS, Commissioner.
GEORGE W. BRENT, Jr., Auctioneer.
Jan 5—2wts

BY T. M. MCCORMICK—AUCTIONEER.
COMMISSIONER'S SALE OF FOUR HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SEVEN SHARES OF THE STOCK OF THE WASHINGTON AND ALEXANDRIA RAILROAD COMPANY.—By virtue of a decree of the Circuit Court of Alexandria County, rendered at May and November terms, 1859, in the suit of the "Alexandria and Washington Railroad Company" complainant, and Fowle, Snowden & Co., and others, defendants, the undersigned as Commissioner of said Court, in and for the County of Alexandria, do hereby give notice, that he will, on SATURDAY, the 11th day of February, A. D. 1860, at 12 o'clock, M., in front of the Mayor's Office, in the City of Alexandria, sell at public auction, FOUR HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SEVEN SHARES OF THE CAPITAL STOCK OF THE WASHINGTON AND ALEXANDRIA RAILROAD COMPANY, the whole of which said Company is represented by 500 shares at \$50 each.

Terms:—Ten per cent. of the purchase money in cash, and the residue on a credit of four months from day of sale, the purchasers giving their notes, with good personal security, and the title to remain until the whole purchase money shall be paid, the same being liable to be resold by the undersigned and payable at one of the Banks in Alexandria.

P. L. SMITH, L. LOUIS KINZER, } Commrs.

dec 2—2wts

COMMISSIONER'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE, rendered at the 11th day of February, 1859, in the case of Smoot, vs. Reynolds, and others, the undersigned Commissioners, will, ON SATURDAY, the 11th day of February, A. D. 1860, at 12 o'clock, M., in front of the Mayor's Office, in the City of Alexandria, sell at public auction, the following LOT OF GROUND, upon which there is a BRICK TENEMENT, and also being bounded as follows: On the north side, by the lot of Wm. N. Brown, formerly Thompson's; On the east side, by the lot of Wm. N. Brown, formerly Thompson's; On the south side, by the lot of Wm. N. Brown, formerly Thompson's; On the west side, by the lot of Wm. N. Brown, formerly Thompson's.

Terms:—One tenth of the purchase money in cash, and the residue on a credit of four months from day of sale, the purchasers giving their notes, with good personal security, and the title to remain until the whole purchase money shall be paid, the same being liable to be resold by the undersigned and payable at one of the Banks in Alexandria.

L. LOUIS KINZER, } Commrs.

dec 2—2wts

COLLECTOR'S SALE.—Will be exposed to public sale, to the highest bidder, ON FRIDAY, the SECOND DAY OF MARCH, 1860, at the Town House, the following LOTS and parts of LOTS, hereinafter mentioned, situated in the County of Prince William, D. C., or so many thereof, as may be necessary to satisfy the Corporation D. C., for Taxes due on them respectively, for the years annexed, with costs and charges. Sale to commence at 12 o'clock, M.—Terms cash.

| To whom Assessed. | Year. | Assessm't. | Taxes. |
|-------------------------|-------|------------|--------|
| James Claggett's heirs, | 1856 | \$175 | \$1 40 |
| Do, do, do, do, do, do, | 1857 | \$175 | \$1 40 |
| Do, do, do, do, do, do, | 1858 | \$175 | \$1 40 |
| Do, do, do, do, do, do, | 1859 | \$175 | \$1 40 |
| Do, do, do, do, do, do, | 1860 | \$175 | \$1 40 |
| Do, do, do, do, do, do, | 1861 | \$175 | \$1 40 |
| Do, do, do, do, do, do, | 1862 | \$175 | \$1 40 |
| Do, do, do, do, do, do, | 1863 | \$175 | \$1 40 |
| Do, do, do, do, do, do, | 1864 | \$175 | \$1 40 |
| Do, do, do, do, do, do, | 1865 | \$175 | \$1 40 |
| Do, do, do, do, do, do, | 1866 | \$175 | \$1 40 |
| Do, do, do, do, do, do, | 1867 | \$175 | \$1 40 |
| Do, do, do, do, do, do, | 1868 | \$175 | \$1 40 |
| Do, do, do, do, do, do, | 1869 | \$175 | \$1 40 |
| Do, do, do, do, do, do, | 1870 | \$175 | \$1 40 |
| Do, do, do, do, do, do, | 1871 | \$175 | \$1 40 |
| Do, do, do, do, do, do, | 1872 | \$175 | \$1 40 |
| Do, do, do, do, do, do, | 1873 | \$175 | \$1 40 |
| Do, do, do, do, do, do, | 1874 | \$175 | \$1 40 |
| Do, do, do, do, do, do, | 1875 | \$175 | \$1 40 |
| Do, do, do, do, do, do, | 1876 | \$175 | \$1 40 |
| Do, do, do, do, do, do, | 1877 | \$175 | \$1 40 |
| Do, do, do, do, do, do, | 1878 | \$175 | \$1 40 |
| Do, do, do, do, do, do, | 1879 | \$175 | \$1 40 |
| Do, do, do, do, do, do, | 1880 | \$175 | \$1 40 |
| Do, do, do, do, do, do, | 1881 | \$175 | \$1 40 |
| Do, do, do, do, do, do, | 1882 | \$175 | \$1 40 |
| Do, do, do, do, do, do, | 1883 | \$175 | \$1 40 |
| Do, do, do, do, do, do, | 1884 | \$175 | \$1 40 |
| Do, do, do, do, do, do, | 1885 | \$175 | \$1 40 |
| Do, do, do, do, do, do, | 1886 | \$175 | \$1 40 |
| Do, do, do, do, do, do, | 1887 | \$175 | \$1 40 |
| Do, do, do, do, do, do, | 1888 | \$175 | \$1 40 |
| Do, do, do, do, do, do, | 1889 | \$175 | \$1 40 |
| Do, do, do, do, do, do, | 1890 | \$175 | \$1 40 |
| Do, do, do, do, do, do, | 1891 | \$175 | \$1 40 |
| Do, do, do, do, do, do, | 1892 | \$175 | \$1 40 |
| Do, do, do, do, do, do, | 1893 | \$175 | \$1 40 |
| Do, do, do, do, do, do, | 1894 | \$175 | \$1 40 |
| Do, do, do, do, do, do, | 1895 | \$175 | \$1 40 |
| Do, do, do, do, do, do, | 1896 | \$175 | \$1 40 |
| Do, do, do, do, do, do, | 1897 | \$175 | \$1 40 |
| Do, do, do, do, do, do, | 1898 | \$175 | \$1 40 |
| Do, do, do, do, do, do, | 1899 | \$175 | \$1 40 |
| Do, do, do, do, do, do, | 1900 | \$175 | \$1 40 |

Georgetown, D. C., Dec 16—law12w

COLLECTOR'S SALE.—Will be exposed to public sale, to the highest bidder, on Thursday, February 16th, 1860, at the Town House, the following LOTS, hereinafter mentioned, situated in the County of Prince William, D. C., or so many thereof, as may be necessary to satisfy the Corporation D. C., for Taxes due on them respectively, for the years annexed, with costs and charges.—the rate of Tax being 50 cents on the hundred dollars. Sale to commence at 12 o'clock, P. M.—Terms cash.

CHAS. D. WELCH, Collector.

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CHAS. D. WELCH, Collector.

DRY GOODS, &c.

625,000 WORTH OF DRY GOODS ON HAND. OUR ENTIRE STOCK OF GOODS consisting in part of the newest and most choice goods of the season. The various assortments embrace—Black and Colored Dress Silks; fine Dress Goods; Shawls; Cloak; Hosiery, &c. &c. Together with an extensive assortment of White Brilliants; Jaconets; Cambrics and Muslins; Swiss Muslins; Embroideries; Laces; Collars, and many new and desirable goods in that line.

Our stock of Cloths and Cassimeres include many choice goods, &c. &c.

We have determined from this day, (Dec. 13), until January 1st, to sell for cash, or to those who will settle their accounts on the 1st of January, the above goods at cost. As this notice is to be in effect only for the time mentioned, it is earnestly requested that those who desire to have the benefit of it will do so as early as possible.

ASHBY & WOOD,

No. 170 King street,

dec 16—under Orange and Alex. R. R. Office.

JUST RECEIVED—30 pieces fancy Moulins

at 10¢ to 25¢, very cheap

10 pieces DeLage and Lavilla Cloth, at 12¢

Another lot of fine beautiful and cheap Reverse

Shawls

100 pieces Fancy Prints, from 61 to 12¢

100 " Cassinets

Beaver Cloths and Fancy Cassimeres

100 " 3/4 5/8 3/4 Plaid and striped Linseys

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